

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 SCA-01 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W  
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P 200945Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2612

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC

SUBJECT: IMPRISONMENT IN LIBYA OF AMERICAN CITIZEN  
WILLIAM THOMAS

REF: TRIPOLI 1176

1. DURING OCT 18 VISIT WITH WILLIAM THOMAS, HE SAID THAT ON SEPT 22 A JUDGE GRANTED THE PROSECUTOR A 30-DAY EXTENSION OF THOMAS' IMPRISONMENT TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE INVESTIGATION. THOMAS NOW EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER HEARING OCT 22. WE WILL TRY TO HAVE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT, AND HAVE REQUESTED MFA TO ARRANGE THIS. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED MFA TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR EMBOFF TO DISCUSS CASE WITH CHEIF PROSECUTOR UMAR AL-BARUNI. WE HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS OFFICIAL BEFORE.

2. THOMAS SAID THAT WHEN ASKED BY LIBYAN OFFICIALS, HE HAD DECLARED HIMSELF NOT GUILTY TO CHARGE OF PASSING MILITARY INFO TO AN ENEMY OF LAR. HE SAID TO US, AS HE HAS BEFORE, THAT THE CHARGES ARE RIDICULOUS. HE WAS QUESTIONED THREE TIMES EARLIER IN HIS DETENTION, BUT SAID HE HAS NOT BEEN AWARE OF ANYTHING LATELY INDICATING THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS ACTIVE. HE IS APPREHENSIVE MAINLY BECAUSE HE IS APPARENTLY BEING HELD INDEFINITELY.

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3. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LENGTHY DELAYS BETWEEN CONSULAR

VISITS, LACK OF AUTHORITATIVE INFO CONCERNING THE CASE AND HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT THOMAS WAS IMPRISONED FOR ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE WE LOCATED HIM. POSSIBLY THERE WILL BE A BREAK IN THE CASE OCT 22, BUT IF THOMAS CONTINUES TO BE HELD AS BEFORE, WE BELIEVE NEW WAYS OF TRYING TO EFFECT HIS RELEASE SHOULD BE TRIED. WHAT THESE NEW WAYS MIGHT BE ARE A QUESTION. CHARGE COULD PRESENT A SPECIAL MESSAGE ON CASE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TO MFA DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY TRAYKI. WE MIGHT ASK MOROCCO OR ALGERIA TO INTERCED WITH LARG ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. QADHAFI HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE HELPFUL TO FOREIGN WOMEN WITH PETITIONS. PERHAPS MRS. THOMAS SHOULD WRITE TO HIM ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE. WOULD APPREPUATE RECEIVING DEPT'S THINKING ON THIS PROBLEM.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE MADRID  
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